

Risk Assessment for Pony Rides at Fetes and Galas



Assessment Date: 21/03/2025

Location: Various local event locations

Assessor: Kate Kirkpatrick

Hazard	Risk	Control Measures
Rider Falls from Pony	Injury from fall, including fractures, concussion, or soft tissue damage.	All riders must wear a properly fitted up to standard riding helmet. Ponies to be led by official Green Helpers who are over the age of 16. Mounting and dismounting to be supervised. Lead ropes and tack to be checked regularly. Stirrups must be caged toe stirrups to prevent feet from slipping through.
Pony Spooking or Bolting	Pony may become startled, leading to loss of control and potential injury.	Only calm, well-trained ponies to be used. Ponies to be assessed prior to use. Handlers to maintain control and awareness of surroundings. Avoid loud noises and sudden movements near ponies. Secure event area with barriers to prevent escape.
Interactions with Public	Risk of bites, kicks, or trampling.	No unsupervised public interaction with ponies. Clear signage indicating safety rules. Handlers to provide guidance and monitor behaviour. Maintain a safe distance between ponies and crowds. Ponies tied with twine to the horsebox.
Allergic Reactions	Some individuals may be allergic to horses or hay.	Provide information on potential allergens in advance. Advise parents to check for allergies before participation. Have a first aid kit with antihistamines available.
Weather Conditions	Extreme weather may cause discomfort or hazards for ponies and riders.	Provide shade and water for ponies in hot weather. Cancel rides in case of storms, heavy rain, or high winds. Ensure ponies are properly rugged in cold conditions.
Slips, Trips, and Falls	Uneven ground or slippery surfaces could cause injury.	Inspect and maintain event area for hazards. Use portable mounting block. Clear pathways and ensure proper crowd control.
Emergency Situations	Medical emergencies, lost children, or pony-related incidents.	Handlers to have mobile phones for emergency contact. First aid trained staff to be present. Emergency contact details available on-site.

Overall Risk Level: **Medium**

- Ensure all handlers are experienced and trained in equine safety.
- Conduct a pre-event safety briefing for all staff and volunteers.
- Maintain clear communication between event organizers and stable staff.
- Keep emergency contacts and first aid supplies readily accessible.

Review Date: 21/03/2026

Approved by: Kate Kirkpatrick, Proprietor